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Fifty-third session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 118
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 6 October 1998 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee a letter dated 5 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations, which contains a request for an exception to the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations (see annex).

(*Signed*) Didier **Opertti**

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Annex

Letter dated 5 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English]

In view of the work of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly in which my country intends to actively participate in order to make its own contribution to the implementation of the ideals of the United Nations, to which the people of Guinea-Bissau are profoundly attached, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that my country, for reasons which are beyond its control, is currently unable to meet its financial obligations towards the Organization.

As you are aware, there is an armed conflict going on in Guinea-Bissau. As a consequence of this tragedy, the banks, financial institutions and government offices have been closed for the last four months. The Government is unable to ensure the payment of salaries to civil servants and to pay its contribution to the United Nations.

We remain committed to meeting our obligations in the long run, as soon as the situation in normalized. However, in the circumstances described above, we are requesting your assistance in securing the vote during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, as an exception to the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Alfredo **Lopes Cabral**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative